

Dear Members of the Environment Committee,

I am forwarding my initial opposition and request for you to vote NO on HB 5263. In addition I am adding HB 5295 to that opposition and would like support and improvement for SB 239.

For some reason-even after receiving a confirmation email, my name along with many others-potentially hundreds, are NOT listed. Can you please assist me with this? It is crucial that we can verify our vote and voice as being counted. Please respond to this email address.

Please vote NO on HB 5295 that establishes a factory-like farming program to slaughter thousands of rabbits for food consumption. As my attach report shows, the demand is just not there. There is more money to be made from rabbits as companion animals over rabbit meat farming.

Please support and improve SB 239- poisons used to kill rodents (rodenticides) find their way into the ecosystem and wreak havoc with wildlife, especially hawks, owls eagles and other birds of prey and even jeopardize children and pets. This bill (SB 239), is a good first step but stronger measures are needed. Please support a ban on lethal second generation products and limit the use of first generation rodenticides on state property and public land including wildlife habitats.

Thank you,
Peggy Miller
90 Summer Island Road
Branford, CT 06405

On Sun, Feb 27, 2022 at 12:44 PM Peggy Miller <pmiller0501@gmail.com> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Peggy Miller** <pmiller0501@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, 27 Feb 2022 at 12:41
Subject: HB 5263
To: <Cetestimony@cga.gov>

Dear Commerce Committee,

I am writing to you to express my opposition to HB 5263. I ask that you vote NO on this bill at the hearing on Tuesday, March 1, 2022.

I am attaching an article that I feel profoundly explains the reasons to oppose this bill. The article was written by Taylor Budnick in 2015. Taylor is a 2015 J.D. graduate (Cum Laude) from Michigan State University. She was the Animal Law Articles Editor for the Journal of Animal and Natural Resource Law.

There are many reasons that this bill should not pass. I would like to highlight what I feel are the most important:

- Rabbits are the third most popular companion animal behind cats and dogs.

- According to the USDA back in 2000-Americans spent \$612 Million annually on companion rabbit supplies (This is where the market demand is!)
- Comparatively, a mere \$7-8 million was the value of the farmed rabbit meat market.
- There is NO consumer demand for rabbit meat to warrant this bill.
- When Whole Food's started selling rabbit meat in 2014, 88% of it's consumers said they would boycott the store. Within 1 year, Whole Food's stopped selling rabbit meat.
- To this day, rabbits are not protected under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA).

The last point I must make is: Federal regulations are NON EXISTENT in the rabbit meat industry. Opening the door for all kinds of cruelty, neglect and inhumane practices with little to NO oversight.

Thank you for your time. I hope you will read the article I have attached and vote NO on HB5263.

Thank you,
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